

Parma Woods

Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

Fall 2004



A New Name A New Supervisor

Our name has changed from training center to “outdoor education center”, not only at Parma Woods, but at all five of the Missouri Department of Conservation staffed ranges. We are becoming more diversified to better serve citizen needs.

All outdoor education centers offer a wide variety of programs and classes, some related to shooting and some not. We provide classes, free of charge, on bird watching, wild flower identification, Dutch oven cooking, outdoor photography, camping, and many other topics.

If knowledge of firearms and shooting is what you're after, we are still the place to turn to. Staff and volunteers hold programs on basic rifle shooting, care and cleaning of firearms, introduction to muzzleloaders, archery, and many others.

Some classes are designed specifically for youth, while others target ladies. Look inside to see a complete listing of the programs offered in the upcoming months. I encourage KC area citizens to participate in the many opportunities to learn about Missouri's great outdoors.



By Eric Edwards
*Outdoor Education Center
Supervisor*

Hello, my name is Eric Edwards. In August, I started my new work assignment with MDC as the Outdoor Education Center Supervisor at Parma Woods. This is my fourth position with the Department. My prior work experience was at the August A. Busch Range near St. Louis. I started as an hourly employee in February 2001, became a Resource Aide in November that same year, and then was promoted to Range Officer in February 2003.

My wife's name is Melanie, and my three daughters are Erica, Ashley, and Allison. All enjoy the outdoors, some as hunters and some just as nature viewers.

I enjoy anything to do with the outdoors including hiking, biking, and photography. But my true love is whitetail deer hunting when the November air is crisp. There's nothing better than sitting around the old wood cook stove sharing stories of past hunts with friends and family.

The deer I am proudest of I didn't even shoot. Erica, my oldest daughter and only 10 at the time, took a very nice 8-point buck on her second day of hunting last year. It was a lot of hard work getting the right gun, finding the right spot, and sighting in until she couldn't shoot any more. The look on her face when we walked up to tag her buck was priceless. If truth be told, I probably had the bigger smile on my face.

This is the reason I do what I do, to try to give this experience to others and their mentors. Maybe it's not a big buck. Perhaps it's that first broken clay target, or being able to cook a meal over a campfire, or maybe making your own turkey call and having a bird in the wild answer you back. If you have never had these types of experiences, give me a call or stop by and we'll try to help you on your way to some of the most satisfying moments in your life.

Fall Events Calendar

*Unless otherwise noted, all classes are free to the public.
Call (816) 891-9941 to register or for more information.*

Ladies Firearms Safety - Part 2

For women interested in learning about firearms safety and shooting.
September 18 (Sat.), 8-10 am

Hunter Ed. Instructor Certification

Teach others to be safe, responsible hunters.
Call (816) 655-6250 ext.0 to register.
September 23 (Thurs.)

Youth Squirrel Hunt Clinic

Enroll in this limited clinic to learn how to hunt squirrels like a pro. Hunt to be held at Parma Woods the next day.
September 24 (Fri.), 6-8 pm

Archery Deer Hunting Seminar

Learn the proper ways to have a safe and enjoyable archery season.
September 29 (Wed.), 6-8:30 pm

Hunter Education Class

Sign up early as this is always a big class.
Call (816) 655-6250 ext.0 to register.
For students 11 years and older.
October 2 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

Fall Turkey Hunting

Learn the basics to hunt fall turkeys.
October 5 (Tues.), 6-8 pm

Dutch Oven Cooking

Come HUNGRY as we show you how to make a great meal with all the fixens.
October 6 (Wed.), 6:30-8 pm

Beginning Archery

Learn the basics of archery safety and shooting. Equipment provided.
October 7 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

FREE Bore Sighting

Just got a new scope or having problems getting one zeroed in? We'll bore sight your fire-arm and get you ready for the hunting season. No registration required.
October 8, 15, 22, 29 (Fri.), 5 pm-dark

Orienteering

Find your way with a map and compass.
October 9 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Hiking at Parma Woods

Learn the gear you need and take a guided hike on the Parma Woods trail.
October 9 (Sat.), noon

Basic Camping

Discover the latest gear and how to use it.
October 13 (Wed.), 6:30-8 pm

Basic Muzzleloading

Learn about equipment needed to enjoy muzzleloaders.
October 14 (Thurs.), 6-8 pm

Basic Muzzleloading Shoot

Learn how to properly shoot a muzzleloader. We have all equipment or bring your own.
October 16 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Campfire Building & Hotdog Roast

Learn how to start a campfire, then stick around for a hotdog roast.
October 20 (Wed.), 6 pm

Hunter Education Class

Sign up early for this high demand class just prior to the hunting season.
Call (816) 655-6250 ext.0 to register.
For students 11 years and older.
October 23 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

Trapping Clinic

Learn how to set and use traps and the essentials to become a proficient trapper.
October 30 (Sat.), 9-11:30 am

Deep Fat Frying

Bring your appetite and learn how to cook turkey, fish, and other favorites.
November 5 (Fri.), 6 pm til we can't eat more

Hunter Education Class

Last one before the deer season.
Call (816) 655-6250 ext.0 to register.
For students 11 years and older.
November 6 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

Dutch Oven Cooking

Learn how to make some tasty suppers in a Dutch Oven.
November 10 (Wed.), 6-8 pm

Birdwatching

Discover the species of birds in the area and the tools needed to identify them.
November 20 (Sat.), 8-10 am

Basic Air Rifle

Youngsters learn to shoot air rifles safely.
November 27 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Bluebird House Building

Want to attract our state bird? We'll show you how in this hands on session.
November 30 (Tues.), 6-8 pm

Hunter Education Class

Sign up early for this high demand class.
Call (816) 655-6250 ext.0 to register.
For students 11 years and older.
December 4 (Sat.), 8 am-6 pm

Basic .22 Rifle

Beginners learn how to safely handle a .22 rifle.
December 11 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Map and Compass

Worry that you might get lost? Learn how to find your way around.
December 18 (Sat.), 9-11 am

Have you heard?

**Parma Woods
Shooting Range has
added an archery range!
That's right, just in time
for the archery season
that comes earlier than
normal (September 15).
The cost is just \$3.
Targets are available at
10, 20, 30, and 40 yards.
Come visit the new range
and sharpen your skills.**

Time to sight in firearms for the deer season

It's time to get that trusty rifle, handgun, muzzleloader, or shotgun out and start zeroing in. As some of you know, the range gets very busy just prior to the firearm deer season. Waiting times can sometimes be as long as two hours. Sighting in your firearm early in fall will help spread out use of the range and increase your odds of not having to wait to secure a spot on the firing line.

Every year we hear people say "I haven't had to sight my gun in for 10 years". These hunters are taking a chance that somewhere between last year and this year a scope was bumped, a set screw got a little loose, or they can't find the same grain weight bullet. These could mean missing the deer of a lifetime just because a firearm was not sighted in properly. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

We will be helping hunters at the range every Friday starting October 8 (5 pm to dark) by providing free bore sighting and scope mounting assistance. Bore sighting in your gun will get you on paper, but you will still need to zero in your scope.



Ladies Firearms Safety

Ladies Firearms Safety classes recently concluded for 2004, however, current plans are to have similar classes next year. This 2-part training offers both classroom instruction and shooting on the range. It's a great way for women to learn the basics of firearms safety and shooting techniques. Watch upcoming issues of the Parma Woods newsletter for the dates of classes in 2005.





Range Rule to Remember

“Always keep your muzzle pointed straight up or down range at all times”

Some of us were taught to carry our guns pointed at the ground, but here at the range we have a lot of paved ground. Should a round go off with the muzzle down, it would ricochet off the ground producing a hazardous situation. If the muzzle is pointed straight up or down range, there would be less likelihood of someone or something being struck. Thank you for keeping our range a safe and enjoyable place to visit.

Attention: The range will be closed November 11, November 25, and December 25

Looking for a great place to volunteer some time? We are always looking for volunteers to help out at the Parma Woods Range and Outdoor Education Center. Do you have knowledge gained through your time in the outdoors that you could pass on to others? You don't have to be an expert, nor do you need to know about everything. If you would like to help out, please call 816-891-9941 to get more information about becoming a volunteer.



Parma Woods Shooting Range & Outdoor Ed. Center
PO Box 14024 (15900 NW River Road)
Parkville, MO 64152
816-891-9941

Range Hours: Wednesday - Sunday
May 1 - September 15: Noon - 7 pm
September 16 - April 30: Noon - 4:30 pm